

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a hole in a body part, comprising:

introducing a generally cylindrical shaped mesh into the hole, the mesh having a generally cylindrical shaped lumen extending between a proximal end and a distal end; and moving at least one of the proximal end and the distal end of the cylindrical shaped mesh at least partially into said lumen an interior portion of the cylindrical shaped mesh such that the mesh expands radially outwards against sides of the hole.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein moving at least one end of the cylindrical shaped mesh at least partially into an interior portion of the cylindrical shaped mesh the lumen comprises advancing [[a]] the proximal end of the mesh in a distal direction.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the proximal end is advanced in a distal direction by a push rod.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the proximal end is advanced distally past the distal end.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the mesh bulges around the perimeter of the proximal end of the hole and forms an ingress prevention element.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein moving at least one of the proximal and distal end of the cylindrical shaped mesh at least partially into an interior portion of the cylindrical shaped mesh the lumen comprises advancing a distal end of the mesh in a proximal direction.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the distal end is advanced proximally past the proximal end.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the mesh bulges around the perimeter of the distal end of the hole and forms an egress prevention element.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the distal end is advanced in a proximal direction by pulling on a tether attached to the distal end of the mesh.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a hole in a bony structure, comprising:

introducing a generally cylindrical shaped mesh into the hole, the mesh having a generally cylindrical shaped lumen extending between a proximal end and a distal end; and moving at least one of the proximal end and the distal end of the cylindrical shaped mesh at least partially into ~~an interior portion of the cylindrical shaped mesh~~ the lumen such that the mesh expands radially outwards against sides of the hole to seal said hole in said bony structure.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of sealing a hole in a vertebral annulus, comprising:

introducing a generally cylindrical shaped mesh into the hole; and moving at least one end of the cylindrical shaped mesh at least partially into an interior portion of the cylindrical shaped mesh such that the mesh expands radially outwards against sides of the hole to seal said hole in said vertebral annulus.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cylindrical shaped mesh is introduced into the hole by:

inserting a tubular inserter into the hole, wherein the mesh is received within a central bore of the tubular inserter; and

withdrawing the tubular inserter from the hole while holding the mesh in the hole.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising: pushing the proximal end of the mesh in a distal direction with a cylindrical inserter received within the tubular inserter.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a hole in a body, comprising:

introducing a generally cylindrically shaped mesh into the hole, the mesh having a generally cylindrical shaped lumen extending between a proximal end and a distal end; and

pushing a proximal end of the ~~cylindrically shaped~~ mesh at least partially into ~~an interior portion of the cylindrically shaped mesh~~ the lumen such that the mesh expands radially outwards against the sides of the hole.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a hole in a body, comprising:

introducing a generally cylindrically shaped mesh into the hole, the mesh having a generally cylindrical shaped lumen extending between a proximal end and a distal end; and

pulling [[a]] the distal end of the ~~cylindrically shaped~~ mesh at least partially back into ~~an interior portion of the cylindrically shaped mesh~~ the lumen such that the mesh expands radially outwards against the sides of the hole.